

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1. (*amended*) A composition comprising a a lanthanide ion material that interacts with a sulfur dye such that oxidation of the sulfur dye by oxidizing agents is inhibited and/or reduced, and a fabric softening agent.

Claim 2. (*Currently cancelled*)

Claim 3. (*Currently cancelled*)

Claim 4. (*Currently cancelled*)

Claim 5. (*Currently cancelled*)

Claim 6. (*Currently cancelled*)

Claim 7. (*amended*) The composition according to Claim 1 6 wherein the lanthanide metal ion is selected from the group consisting of: La(III), Ce(IV), Gd(III) and mixtures thereof.

Claim 8. (*Cancel, with the proviso that applicant reserves the right to pursue divisional applications on the species therein*)

Claim 9. A kit comprising:

- a. an article of manufacture comprising a composition according to Claim 1; and
- b. instructions for using the composition to treat a fabric in need of treatment.

Claims 10-43. (*These Claims stand withdrawn from consideration*)

Claim 44 (*New*) A composition according to Claim 1 wherein the fabric softening agent is a member selected from the group consisting of quaternary ammonium compounds, smectite clays, polyethylene oxide materials, and tertiary amines.